Ticketless train travellers in Bihar

2166. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that majority of train passengers in Bihar travel without ticket;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps are being taken to ensure the entry of authorized ticket holders only in trains, and that the reserved seat passengers are not harassed by unauthorized passengers; and

(d) the annual revenue loss suffered by the Railways due to ticketless travellers and the amount collected from the defaulters, in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) The extent of ticketless travel is not quantifiable. However, intensive checks have been done over Eastern, North Eastern, Northeast Frontier and South Eastern Railways, the portions of which are serving the State of Bihar.

(c) In addition to manning of reserved coaches by ticket checking staff, intensive drives are regularly conducted by Commercial and Vigilance departments in association with the Police against ticketless/irregular travel and also to prevent entry of unauthorized passengers in reserved compartments. Unauthorized passengers are dealt with as per the relevant provisions of law.

(d) Ticket checking on the Railways is a continuous activity. However, the loss suffered due to ticketless travellers which go undetected cannot be assessed. State-wise figures are not maintained.

Rail electrification between Kharagpur and Bhubaneswar

2167. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that electrification between Kharagpur and Bhubaneswar is getting delayed due to shortage of funds;

(b) whether it is also a fact that allocation for the purpose for the year 2001-2002 was reduced; and

(c) if so, what steps the Railways are planning, to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Besides the original allotment of Rs. 15.00 crores during 2001-02, additional funds of Rs. 42.68 crores have also been provided to complete the project as per the scheduled target of March, 2003.

Ticketless train passengers

†2168. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of ticketless train passengers has been increasing continuously;

(b) whether Government are contemplating to take any concrete steps to check the same; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) The exact extent of ticketless travel is not quantifiable. However, increased ticket checking efforts are done to reduce the number of ticketless passengers.

Besides emphasising on the regular ticket checking activities, the Zonal Railways conduct checks during specific periods at nominated places which are prone to irregular travel so as to have a greater impact for curbing the problem. The Railway Magistrates and Police are also associated from time to time. The officers of Railways are involved both in actual checking as well as monitoring of ticket checking activities.

Missing containers of CONCOR

2169. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 80 containers of the Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR) are missing;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to recover the same; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.